

Message Text

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13

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 NEA-10 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-14 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 DODE-00 RSR-01 NIC-01 EA-11

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R 211050 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 656

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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CONFIDENTIAL MOGADISCIO 0393

CINCPAC AND CINCLANT FOR POLADS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR PFOR SO UR

SUBJ: SOVIET OFFICIAL NAVAL VISIT TO MOGADISCIO

REF: A. MOG 0367; B. MOG 0107, JANUARY 1972; C. MOG 1572

1. SOVIET CRUISER NO. 052 ADMIRAL SENYAVIN, WHICH COMMAND SHIP FOR SOVIET INDIAN OCEAN FLEET COMMANDED BY REAR ADMIRAL KURGLYADOV, PAID OFFICIAL VISIT TO MOGADISCIO MARCH 15-20. THIS FIRST VISIT BY LARGE SOV NAVAL VESSEL SINCE TWO SOVIET MISSILE HEAVY DESTROYERS DURING JAN- FEB 1972 (REF B). CRUISER ACCCOMPANIED BY FLEET MINE SWEEPER WHICH WE UNABLE IDENTIFY FURTHER BECAUSE IT ANCHORED SOME DISTANCE SEWARD OF CRUISER.

2. UNLIKE 1972 VISITS, SOMALIS PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED PRESENCE OF SHIPS. DURING VISIT SOVS GAVE RECEPTIONS ASHORE AND ON BOARD TO GSDR MILITARY OFFICIALS AND MEMBERS OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS. CRUISER'S COMPLEMENT OF OVER ONE THOUSAND MEN, INCLUDING 15 OFFICERS ASSIGNED TO ADMIRAL'S STAFF, GIVEN SHORE LEAVE DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS UNDER USUAL RESTRICTIONS: ALL RATINGS TRAVELED

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IN GROUPS ACCCOMPANIED BY ONE OR TWO PETTY OFFICERS. LOCAL VENDORS UNHAPPY BECAUSE SAILORS REPORTEDLY ISSUED ONLY SMALL AMOUNT SPENDING MONEY. SOMALIS DID NOT GIVE RECIPROCAL ENTERTAINMENT AS OCCURRED WHEN FRENCH FRIGATE VISITED HERE LAST DECEMBER (REF C). NO JOINT ATHLETIC OR SOCIAL EVENTS ORGANIZED.

3. DURING TOUR OF SHIP BY DIP CORPS ON MAR 18, SOVS STRESSED THAT VISITORS WERE FREE TO SEE ANYTHING ON BOARD AND TO ASK ANY QUESTIONS. GERMAN CHARGE WAS PERMITTED PHOTOGRAPH BRIDGE, GUNS, RADAR, ETC. DIP CORPS RESPONSE TO ADMIRAL' S REMARKS, WHICH STRESSED SHIP' S MISSION TO PROMOTE " PEACE AND DEMOCRACY," WAS DELIVERED BY NORTH KOREAN AMB WHO NEXT IN SENIORITY TO SOVIET ACTING DEAN. (FLANKED BY SOVIET HOSTS ON ONE SIDE AND CHICOMS ON OTHER, KOREAN FOUND THIS SOMEWHAT UNCOMFORTABLE HONOR.)

4. SOVIET OFFICERS DID NOT RESPOND DIRECTLY TO QUESTION AS TO NEXT PORT OF CALL. HOWEVER, THEY DID FRANKLY STATE THAT CRUISER HAD VISITED BOMBAY, ADEN, SOCOTRA AND BERBERA DURING PRESENT VOYAGE WHICH BEGAN IN BALTIC ON NOVEMBER 15. THEY EXPECT TO RETURN TO HOME PORT BY MAY 15. OFFICERS STATED SHIP HAD SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME AT SOCOTRA ANCHORAGE WHERE ADMIRAL AND HIS STAFF HAD TRANSFERRED TO SOVIET DESTROYER FOR ETHIOPIAN NAVAL DAY ATTENDANCE AT MASSAWA BECAUSE CRUISER TOO LARGE ENTER MASSAWA.

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